

Otw to school MATT and CONNER watching a clip talking about the value of Predict: Prelude vintage comic books, #1-10 selling for a combined ~50M. FUGLY leans over from backseat and says that's the reason MATT failed 11th grade...

M "Staying behind a year was a deliberate strategy... to finish what I started (serious anime face)

C "He thinks now that he's 18 one more year with Mrs. MAXWELL and maybe he can-

M " take her to dinner" (lookin crazy)

F "please, Mrs. MAXWELL is the strictest bitch in school... and a little birdie told me she switched to teaching 12G... probably to avoid dealing with you another year"

M (shocked anime face) badum badum heart

Get to school, MATT races to admin office to get class info... indeed his history teacher is now

...

Mr. Navarro, a senior teacher with a strict reputation, who had retired but was asked to come back and agree'd... MATT looks up and Mr. Navarro is down the hall with a fiery stare... "The shenanigans will not fly under my watch, Mr. ITACHI... see you in 15. (eye close-up) Sharp.

What has MATT done... his heart caused him to delay his graduation, his college debut. His peers would now be younger than him... and being 18 in classes with 16/17 year old girls meant... no dating... 'I've made a... mistake (dramatic anime face)

FF and MATT's classroom is packing up as class finishes, Mr. Navarro shoots a glance to the back of the classroom... MATT is tucked , arms and head, into his hoody with a muffled snore coming from within... once the students clear out Mr Navarro yells into the hoody...

"if you want to play hardball you've picked the right opponent Mr. ITACHI."

MATT : it doesn't MATter to me... I needed a reset this morning but I'll be blazing through this material to try and get kicked back up to the right grade.

Navarro: Perfect, then I'll coordinate with the dean to be the professor for all 6 of your subjects."

MATT: (walking out of class still inside hoody)fuck

Cut to CONNER and PARKER in MAXWELL'S class, FUGLY is reading a report on what he did over the summer. He always had the same topic: conspiracy theories that he felt may tie back to him and his family... no MATter how much people joked about it.

CONNER feels bad about everyone making fun of him and chimes in:

well Idk about the bloodline crap... but I do think the holographic powers are real... :

FUGLY: CONNER's being humble... at summer camp he turned a baseball bat holographic and fuckin demolished the ball, it was melted into a tree when we found it"

Whole class starts calling bullshit and saying let's see it...

CONNER says they were pretty sure something happened but it never happened again so the class says its obviously bullshit... Mrs. MAXWELL chimes in and explains that while many mythical legends have a parallel to this holographic power, it is just a legend and no such phenomenon has ever been recorded to actually have occurred.

CONNER and FUGLY fall back and once class is leaving, Mrs. MAXWELL asks CONNER to stay for a minute...

Mrs. MAXWELL: This year I want to nominate you for some positions but you can't be associating yourself with fringe conspiracies... leave the sci-fi stuff to FUGLY while you're at school... and also I'm hearing unfortunate things about MATT from his teachers... if you see him could you ask him to stop by my classroom before going home?

CONNER agrees and shuffles into hallway.. PARKER is standing outside even though the halls are alrdy cleared.

CONNER "my bad were you trying to speak to mrs. MAXWELL?"

PARKER " actually, I wanted to speak with you."

CONNER is confused since PARKER is notoriously quiet in a bad ass way.

PARKER "about the holo body stuff... I know it's not just a legend... have you tried to reproduce it like the time you hit that baseball?"

CONNER "yeah probably the whole year after, but I think I was just exhausted from the pressure of it being the championship game... you shouldve had Fug's back with me when the class started roasting us"

PARKER "exhausted enough to melt the ball into a tree, huh? You and FUGLY both saw it, although I have no interest in debating the average classroom about it. If you can make it happen again that would end any doubts they have"

CONNER "good point, but what are the odds of it happening again in front of them?"

PARKER "Well... what if I knew someone who could mentor you to control it"

CONNER "ha, if they could do that why don't you just learn to do it"

PARKER checks their surroundings, opens his palm and creates a small halo of holographic electric glow.

CONNER starts to get excited and PARKER quickly neutralizes him and says if anyone finds out the mentor will refuse to teach either of them... CONNER says he at least has to tell MATT.

PARKER "loverboy will just hold you back. Once you get it down maybe we can see what ITACHI thinks..."

CONNER "Wellll what if hypothetically MATT were able to get a faint glow on command"

PARKER "two of you in one household...? Lightning striking twice is more likely... but if its true I need to see it, and then we can arrange with my mentor.

CONNER "bet, we'll see you on the bus ride home then"

At the end of the day CONNER and PARKER get on the bus,

PARKER : and your brother?

CONNER: give him a minute, he had to talk to Mrs. MAXWELL...

Time goes by and the bus pulls off,

"Hey my brothers still talking to our professor!"

Bus driver " your punk ass brother has school tmrw doesn't he? He'll be ight, im not gonna get paid extra for waiting on his ass"

PARKER : see, kids fuckin up left and right

CONNER : He'll have it back together tomorrow, trust me

PARKER already half asleep "wake me at our stop"

CONNER calls his father to let him know MATT is stuck at school,

Father: The professor called here already, she is dropping him off after they make a lesson plan for him to skip up to the right grade

CONNER: see I told yall he was getting his shit together

FUGLY leans over again : I'd be scared shitless to ride with MAXWELL... it's covered up but when we were just freshmen here I saw some satanic shit tattood on her. The older kids in my network asked her why she had it and she claimed she got it as a dare and didn't know it meant any of that... (even though shes a damn encyclopedia) then it was covered up and the rumor died out... once the most popular kid in school who was talking about her, was found dead with all his organs missing and not a drop of blood left in his body.

CONNER : Fug man, why don't you just write a book... I heard of that kid dying, he was on drugs or something and the organ and blood shit was just the other kids on drugs making the story salacious.

PARKER's ears perk up as FUGLY was speaking.

When they get off the bus, PARKER walks slow to separate from the other students...

CONNER walks with him and once the coast is clear,

"alright... so about this mentor of yours"

PARKER "change of plans. I think ITACHI might be in danger"

CONNER "what the FUGLY Satan shit? Im gonna write a comic book with that stuff if FUGLY doesn't, imagine the horror if we found MATT's body with no organs and no blood... fucking bomb ass movie plot"

PARKER "my mentor wouldn't take a 1% chance on this stuff... let's make sure he makes it home before moving on with our day"

CONNER "we can get a bite to eat at my place while we wait"

PARKER "sounds good... but... (anime drama face) I don't want to interact with anyone's family"

CONNER " don't worry ill let em know youre the quiet type, I don't want em thinking im getting into this holo stuff anyway,they alrdy had to lock up my batshit sister lol"

PARKER "for?"

CONNER : She was having dreams that she thought were like messages and it became impossible to reason with her... would be fun to glow holo in front of her and see her reaction though lol"

PARKER "none of these 'messages' ended up being relevant to real life?"

CONNER "mmm well they were vague ramblings so we never really kept track, although she did correctly describe my dreams before I told anyone about them a few times

PARKER "your family sounds unique... this sister, blood-related to you or... well I believe ITACHI is adopted, correct?"

CONNER "yep, she's my sister, so MATT probably helped drive her crazy once we all hit puberty lol"

They arrive at the McNally household and Mr. McNally is on his computer as usual. Yells out that MATT already called and said everything was fine, they came up with a lesson plan, CONNER gives PARKER a look of "told ya it was all good"

and I guess she wants to curve his... focus... so she is taking him to her church before dropping him off...

CONNER gives PARKER a look of "uhhh"

"the only church near the school is the one that had the lightning fire, isnt it closed?"

"just a section, she said the owners are practically family anyway"

The image of FUGLY and hellfire loom over the two boys as they try to act natural. As they finish their sandwiches and begin to excuse themselves, Mr McNally adds

"oh we'll probably go visit your sister this week, she called with another spooky dream message... Said she saw MATT joining a cult or something... cult of double homework maybe haha"

CONNER says they're going over to PARKER's place to grab some stuff for a school project, and to give him a call when MATT gets back.

Once they leave the house they begin sprinting toward the old church, better safe than sorry.

The next chapter backs up a bit to where MATT is excitedly headed up to Mrs. MAXWELL'S class, thinking he has to tone it down and make a more mature impression this year... He gets to her classroom and realizes she is in her office on the phone. He refrains from knocking and puts his ear up to the door...maybe she's on the phone with her divorce lawyer

MAXWELL "so let me get this straight one more time... Mr. ITACHI has stated he failed on purpose to pursue a romantic relationship with... me.... His teacher. Ok yes I know his words were much more inappropriate, and just as well that they backfired since he's stuck with Mr. Navarro. I'm going to have to burst his bubble and get him to realize he can only see me as a mentor if we skip him up."

MATT is crushed... hears her wrapping up the call and composes himself at a desk, pretending to look at posted materials along the class wall...

MAXWELL steps out of her office and is startled to see him... "Mr. ITACHI... I didn't expect you to be here... 1 minute after dismissal..."

MATT "oh no biggie, just been working on... being punctual ya know. Didn't want to bug you while you were on a work call"

MAXWELL "yes well... let's get right to it... Did you hear any of my conversation? "

MATT "not at all, just some muffled convo while I read about these uhh Mesopotamians here!"

MAXWELL looks at her office door and sees MATT's face print on the glass...

"MATT... a little birdy explained to me why you botched your exams last year. I didn't understand how you could've failed either, but the reasons I was told... are a cause for concern..."

MATT is turning red at this point "whaaaaat did this birdy say exactly, im sure it was fake news made to be extra salacious"

MAXWELL pulls up a recording of MATT streaming video games and saying "flunked the school year on purpose cause im soooo close to getting a date with my fine-ass teacher, one more year with her and she'll be Professor ITACHI nawmsayn"

MATT is tomato red "that... must be doctored footage, it does sound like me though wow crazy"

MAXWELL... "MATT I am able to skip you up but id like to solve this ... issue... before bringing you back to my classroom... Would you be willing to attend and volunteer free time to my church? I spoke with your father earlier and he was okay with it, and in-fact said we can start today if Im able to drop you off at home after.

MATT is visibly calculating, but figures if it means skipping back up to 12G and spending time out of school with Mrs. MAXWELL... this church business is a no-brainer. "I'll give it a shot if you think it'll help me. With skipping up of course, and you'll see im... not a weirdo Mrs.... Lol" Driving from the school MAXWELL asks MATT if he has his license... "yep, but the family cars are all too expensive so they want me to practice on something less fancy..."

MAXWELL... "if you think you can handle it, ill let you drive my car from the church to your house, since I don't know the way anyway"

MATT "we can do that" (visibly stoked for the chance to be in her driver's seat, fantasy of them riding around looking cool af)

They get to the church and MAXWELL leads him in, they do about an hour of regular church type stuff, acquainting MATT with the various things they do. After a final prayer sesh in the main hall, she tells MATT shes proud of him and his willingness to mature.

"now as a reward... another birdy said you know about those Prelude comic books"

"Aaaa little bit, read a couple here and there"

"oh I was hoping you would maybe know enough to identify valuable vintage copies"

"uuuuhhhh well I hate to sound like a nerd... but if youre looking to invest now while they're still affordable I could help make sure you get the -

"not buy dummy... come look at these"

MATT is surprised and follows her to a youth study room

Flashback to her childhood and she is a young girl in bible study, doing her best to show out her pristine memory of the passages, and checking if she is getting the attention of an older boy in her study group... he is looking down in his book and she realizes he has a comic book in front of his bible pages... she watches closely as they put everything away and notices a space in their cubbies where he is keeping a stack of comics under their bible worksheets... she stays behind to help tidy up the area, and grabs the entire stack... not knowing what to do with them she takes them to a cabinet that's basically been untouched for years, and knocks the back panel out... she stashes the comics and replaces the panel, and has a smug face the next study group as her crush is being rushed to get in the car by his parents, as he is tearing apart the area he had the comics in... she tells him she is busy that day but next week can help him find his books... the boys parents begin dragging him into the car and a tear goes down his face... "just forget it"

She thinks its ridiculous that he is such a tough guy then becomes a baby for his comics... its one week he'll survive, and she'll look like a detective genius when she miraculously finds them next week.

The next week he is absent and the group teacher lets them all know he moved away, "which he could've done peacefully instead of tearing apart our shelves... Jesus help that kid, and the next youth leader that has to deal with him"

She runs out to the bathroom to cry and blame herself

MATT: wow so... that happened here?

MAXWELL: yup, and far as I can tell that cabinets been untouched since, I was too heartbroken to ever check. Eyes the cabinet

MATT walks over and carefully opens it to discover a stack of original Prelude Comics in pristine condition

MAXWELL: so, you think they're worth anything?

MATT: ummmmm..... angel and devil pop up on shoulders

Tell her theyre worthless and keep em

Be honest and maybe she will appreciate your vast knowledge on this subject

Tell her to split em with you...

What if she wants you to have the comics as a gift? Surely you cant sell them if that's the case

MATT: uhmmm... I think theyre legit

MAXWELL: well id hate to take them to get estimates and get lowballed since I probably look as clueless as I am on their value... What would you say theyre worth? Maybe we're rich haha.

MATTs angel: she said we so it looks like she's willing to split the reward with you, best to sound like you know what youre talking about

MATT: ahem... well 1-5 will go for about this much in this condition, 6 and 8 have bent corners here and here, and depending on the brand this mustard stain on #10 might bring down the value or even raise it up if forensics show it is promotional for that band Mustard that was big at the time, as a set the value would easily be in the 100M's....

MAXWELL : you're kidding... so... that stack of dumb comics will be enough for me to retire?

MATT: yeah, the material is so cheap that barely any copies survived especially in this condition.

MAXWELL: hmm... This would call for celebration in most people's lives...

They eye the church wine supply...

MAXWELL: If you can keep a secret... I think a glass would be reasonable. put those in a box and perhaps you can start looking for a buyer tomorrow...

MATT starts to think he must be dreaming, but follows along,

One glass turns to 2, and then we see the moon over the church, they have managed to drink several bottles from the back stock, and she tells MATT they'll have to get rid of the evidence, the empty bottles usually go down in the basements recycling bin, and to help her carry them down.

They begin collecting the bottles and bump into eachother... MATT freaks out and insists it was totally by accident

"relax, we're both a little... intoxicated at this point, Mr. ITACHI. I was stressed about retirement and have to admit this news felt like a gift... I shouldn't have offered you wine but I haven't loosened up in years" she takes off her coat and we see her covered up tattoo. MATT does his best to not look at her figure

On the way down the main hall she drops a bottle, luckily it doesn't break. MATT begins to hobble over to help but she says no worries I got it

And bends over to pick it up in a way that no man can look away from. Surely she is testing MATT though, so he basically turns around completely. She straightens up and laughs at him, "that's how youll have to act while we're at school Mr. ITACHI... although if these things do sell I can finally quit teaching, but I think its still best to keep stuff between us."

M"of course, totally wont mention these to anyone"

T"or anythting else for that MATTer, right, Mr ITACHI?"

M catching his drool in the empty wine as they reach the cellar door, "right Mrs. MAXWELL"

She opens the door and a dark stairway leads into pitch black,

The door closes behind them and she pulls a match to light a candle at the bottom of the stairwell, but it goes out.

"fuck, that was the last match I had"

MATT quickly lights it with his finger tip "I cant believe I just heard you say the F word lol"

MAXWELL'S demeanor completely changes and she is making serious anime faces at MATT and the candle.

"where'd you learn that magic trick mr ITACHI?"

M realizing his burnt fingertip "oh usually I cant do it cause im scared to burn my finger, butt I guess I was drunk and didn't think about it... My brother says it's like that holographic power but I think its just friction from guitar calluses... finger tips are basically like rubbing rocks together"

"you are... a lot more interesting than I gave you credit for Mr. ITACHI... I feel like I could share a lot with you..."

"uhhm yeah lol your comic book stash... my finger lighter trick... everyone says I should keep it a secret but it comes in handy... for candles of course" (image of him and CONNER smoking doobies in his mind)

X: I think we've played dumb long enough Mr. ITACHI. If we're splitting millions then we might as well be direct.

M thinking he's gonna have to confess his love "I guess youre ri-"

X: We already know about the "fine-ass teacher comments. How did you feel about the church tour?"

M: oh, well I am looking forward to learning to correcting that thought pattern with the teachin-

X: first is full confession, be completely honest about what you think

M: ... youre right I will have to come clean whenever I do the confession

X: just do it right now... with me... I have heard it all Mr. ITACHI

M: uuuh... well... I ... just-

X: come, theres one room left to show you.

(show PARKER and CONNER out side talking to the crew, getting denied entry)

M thinking "if I say the wrong thing she might file a restraining order and keep all the prelude comics to herself... I cant actually spill the full beans..."

X: now this room is like church VIP... but it's where some of the cities most prominent figures process their deepest darkest thoughts. Anything done in here stays... in here. How does that sound?

M loud exhale thinking 'why does she have to speak like a porn script'

X: if we explore some of your thoughts in here you have to promise, not a word to anyone.

M: You have my word Mrs. MAXWELL.... But really its nothing too crazy

X: ha, we'll see... how about I lead by example... so you don't feel as uncomfortable being honest. I used to have problems focusing on work, because of a sexual fixation I couldn't get out of my head... I was able to explore it here and it gradually went away. I no longer pictured myself tying up every person I had to interact with, which was especially problematic with my students... of course, pretending to tie up my church peers did leave a residual amount of that desire lingering in the back of my mind... and having a student here with me... well... im sorry im sure that sounds insane to you

M foaming at the mouth "tons of people have interest in knots and things like tha-

X: so you'd let me tie you up and blindfold you...? Then of course after I show you how to properly process and confess, you can do the same and... then we can get you home"

M: i-if you are asking to tie me up and blindfold me, I am more than happy to cooperate, I just don't want you to think im doing it for the wrong reason of course!"

X: no of course... we're only human Mr. ITACHI, relax and close your eyes.

M shuts eyes so fast his eyelids fracture
X takes her shirt off and blindfolds MATT with it...
X: can you see through it or is it dark?
M: pitch black, whered you pull a blindfold out of lol
X: its my shirt Mr. ITACHI
M loud exhale
X opens the door to the VIP chamber and guides MATT inside...
She asks him if he can flick his finger fire one more time, he complies and she lights up a torch, revealing an elaborate arrangement for some sort of dark ritual...
X: such a useful trick that finger... but look you got burnt, here
She puts her mouth around his finger and shit makes that SSSSSS sound
M exhales loudly
X Laughs and physically guides him to a post, shaped like a cross
X: "youre sure its ok if I tie you up for a little? Youre probably strong enough to get free if it starts to freak you out... but it'll be ok, just for fun. Between us"
M "Whatever you think is best Mrs!"
She raises his arms and begins tying them to the post, then his legs. "hows that?"
M "I cant see a thing or move a muscle... I confess Im enjoying it though"
X laughs "that's progress already, now Im going to remove the blindfold so you can see me"
M "ok let me know when your shirts back on so I can open my eyes"
X says its ok just open them, and removes her shirt
M opens his eyes and makes a shocked anime face
X "relax Mr. ITACHI those are all just wax figures of mangled children... but they sure took your attention away from my body"
M eyes moving back and forth "sorry I didn't wanna stare, but the uhh figures also caught me way off guard, they look real as fuck"
X "theyre hyper realistic watch" she takes a dagger from behind MATT and forces it into a figurine. Blood appears to shoot out onto her, and she licks it off her hands.
"looks real doesn't it?"
M "welll the bodies did but the blood looks totally fake... although the creepy room does help... you guys making a horror film with this stuff?"
X: sort of... some of us in the group like to emulate the deepest fear we can imagine... we let everyone freak out before letting them know the bodies arent real, its dark, but it's a good laugh to be honest. I wanted to do so with you, but didn't want you to freak out too much lol
M: I love a good prank lol..... I coulda handled it.....

[PARKER and CONNER are sneaking in through a random window]

X:oh? Well then lets pretend... that now im confessing they actually are real...
X cuts an ear off a figure and lets the blood drip into her mouth... walks over to MATT and gets intimately close... "would a kiss like this disgust you?"
M "I mean it has that realistic blood smell but if blood kisses are your thing.... Who am I to judge"
X "realistic? I just confessed to you that its real blood... so how about it?"
M "well I guess in that case id at least ask if its been tested to be safe... health class you know"
X "it hasn't been tested... so ill respect your concerns and not force you to taste it on me..."
M "I was just messing around of course I trust your blood stuff Mrs. lol, I wont mind the taste.... If you wanted to do the kiss of course, totally up to you lol"
X "so I can do whateveri want without even asking?"
M devil on shoulder 'its like those roleplaying strip games dummy just say yes!"
Angel 'yeah quit with the smart ass shit and just comply with your depraved teacher's instructions!"
M: "im game for whatever you wanna try Mrs, just glad I can help!"

X laughs "such a good boy..."

[CONNER and PARKER notice burning smell from cellar, and open the stairwell door]

Walks around behind him exhaling on his neck,

"I want you to think about it again and answer as if we werent in school... one last time lets be 100% direct..."

May I do as I wish with you Mr. ITACHI? Yes, or no?" she rips a sleeve off of MATT's shirt

"woah uh Ahem... Yes, fasho Mrs. MAXWELL"

"good, and call me Lilly"

Cut scene to Mrs. MAXWELL sinking her teeth into MATT's neck and blood shooting out
M "WOAH did you just bite me like a vampire?! Youre wilder than I ever imagined Mrs. T- I mean Lilly!"

She continues to drain and consume the blood, visibly getting euphoric

"it hurt a little but now its numb and feels kinda good... a little bit light-headed though, did you make some blood come out?? Guess a little of my blood is better than fake ea- I mean... real ear blood lol"

[a slam on the VIP chamber door startles Lillith and she blows out all the candles, leaving MATT in pitch black. The door swings open and CONNER and PARKER are holding the one candle from the stairwell, not expecting the large pitch black room they were about to walk into.

C "MATT! You in here!?"

M in a groggy voice: ...CONNER..? What the hell are you doing here... im in the middle of something"

They hold the candle toward MATT and can see him tied up, barely conscious, and blood pouring from his neck.

C "bro what the fuck! Youre bleeding out!"

"chill ... out... most of the bloods from that fake wax fig... ure..."

they turn around and illuminate the collection of bodies... PARKER reaches out to the one covered in recent blood...

O "fake blood usually isnt warm ITACHI" he tastes a bit from his thumb... "and definitely doesn't usually taste like the real thing"

Eyes from a dark corner open,

Unstable excitement in voice X"I told him several times ... it was real"

They turn around to see her silhouette dashing back toward MATT

"but human blood is NOTHING compared to this" and she sinks her teeth back into MATT's neck

They run toward the scene and she takes one last gulp, then leaps backward

"psycho bitch! You wouldve killed him if we hadn't showed up, MATT you alright??"

MATT is unconscious now and the candle shows more and more blood all over...

"Fuck he's bleeding out! Let's get him out of here!"

PARKER is standing, staring at their teacher who is half naked and licking blood off of her hands like it's fuckin cookie dough

"compared to human blood? I would be afraid of having to fight you, but If you're implying he has the special type then you've made a mistake. Drinking all that will for sure be toxic and kill you in minutes."

CONNER " wtf are you talking about help me untie his other arm!"

PARKER grabs the cross and rips it from ground, "I doubt we can save him, but ill handle her if you can carry him by yourself..."

He hands CONNER the cross and it pulls him down pinning him under MATTs (basically corpse)

C "how the fuck ... can anyone pick this shit up!!! MATT stay with us man!!"

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